

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14, and add claims 70-81 as follows:

1-69. (Cancelled)

70. (New) A method for preparing a basement membrane comprising:
culturing cells having an ability to form the basement membrane on a support structure with a sugar-chain coat,
wherein the sugar-chain coat has a β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end or a 2-acetoamide-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end, and
whereby the culturing is under conditions such that the cells are in contact with the support structure with the sugar-chain coat, and the β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end or 2-acetoamide-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end can localize a receptor on the cells to thereby accumulate basement membrane components onto a basal surface of the cells and form the basement membrane.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 further comprising preparing a support structure with the sugar-chain coat comprising coating the support structure with the sugar-chain coat.

72. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the support structure is a fibrous collagen.

73. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the support structure is coated with a polymer having a sugar chain comprising PV-GlcNAc, PV-CA or PV-Lam.

74. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the support structure has opposing surfaces and is coated by a sugar chain on both of its opposing surfaces.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the cells having the ability to form the basement membrane are cultured on both of the opposing surfaces of the support structure.

76. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane comprise epithelial cells, endothelial cells or mesenchymal cells.

77. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are co-cultured with fibroblasts.

78. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of one or more types of basement membrane components comprising laminin, type IV collagen, heparan sulfate proteoglycan (HSPG), or entactin.

79. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of TGF- β (transforming growth factor- β).

80. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are transfected with one or more genes encoding one or more basement membrane components in order to hyper-express one or more basement membrane components.

81. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the sugar chain or a part of the sugar chain is replaced by a basement membrane component.